



## Fact Sheet

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### What is T.E.A.M. Mentoring?

- It is a state-wide, faith-based, non-profit mentoring program for those being released from incarceration and re-joining families, relatives, communities and society.
- T.E.A.M. stands for “**T**each, **E**ncourage, **A**ssist and **M**odel” which are four key directives for mentoring those re-entering communities after incarceration.

### What is the Origin and Purpose of T.E.A.M. Mentoring?

- T.E.A.M. Mentoring was established in 2000 with the primary purpose of providing mentoring and transitional services to prisoners, ex-prisoners and children of prisoners.
- The overarching goal of T.E.A.M. Mentoring is to reduce recidivism by assisting ex-offenders with successful re-entry. This involves working with them on healthy and supportive relationships, job placement, housing, and transportation, as they become contributing, accountable members of society.

### Why is it important to support T.E.A.M. Mentoring?

- T.E.A.M. Mentoring has a productive track record providing a wide range of transitional services and working effectively with the Montana Department of Corrections and the criminal justice system.
- Ex-offenders who are involved with T.E.A.M. Mentoring are less likely to re-offend; Montana’s three-year recidivism rate is 33% for females and 41% for males; whereas, the T.E.A.M. Mentoring’s recidivism rate is less than 10% for those in the program for 12 months and 28% for those attending the in-prison Re-Entry Workshops.
- Montana has one of the highest rates of incarceration in the nation with local jails, detention centers and prisons overcrowded; for the year 2003-2004, Montana ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally in percent increase in incarcerated population.
- Incarceration is costly for the state of Montana; at an average cost of \$80 per day per inmate, the annual expense is \$29,200; in 2004, the Montana Department of Corrections actual expenses were in excess of \$117 million. On a mere \$130,000 budget, T.E.A.M. Mentoring effectively saved Montana taxpayers over \$2.6 million in 2005 by reducing recidivism.
- T.E.A.M. Mentoring provides one of the best investments in the state of Montana; it is estimated that for every dollar contributed to T.E.A.M. there is a return to the state taxpayers of \$10 to \$20 through a combination of reduced recidivism and extra taxes paid by ex-offenders who are gainfully employed.

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## **What are some ongoing projects and achievements of T.E.A.M. Mentoring?**

- Over the past four years, T.E.A.M. Mentoring has trained over 188 mentors from 51 churches across Montana and worked with over 500 incarcerated men and women through the Re-Entry Program.
- T.E.A.M. Mentoring currently operates mentoring teams in Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, and Kalispell.
- T.E.A.M. Works is an innovative, successful, one year-old program designed to ensure job readiness and employment skills for ex-prisoners in the Billings area.
- T.E.A.M. Mentoring operates two transitional homes in Billings, one for women and one for men.
- T.E.A.M. Mentoring of Children of Incarcerated Parents has currently trained over 30 mentors from across Billings and worked with over 25 children whose parent(s) are incarcerated.

## **What are future plans for T.E.A.M. Mentoring?**

- To continue to develop and expand T.E.A.M. Mentoring to more Montana communities as an evidence-based best practice model with proven results.
- To expand the range of networking and collaboration to maximize resources and services to prisoners, ex-prisoners, and children of prisoners.
- To pursue certification as a licensed community correctional center qualified to work under contract for the Montana Department of Corrections and/or the Federal Department of Corrections.
- To seek additional funding for long-term sustainability.

## **What can an individual or organization do to help?**

- Your tax-deductible contribution will make a significant difference in assisting the successful re-entry of ex-offenders across Montana.
- A charitable contribution or gift through your will or estate plan is a gift that “keeps on giving” by helping reduce Montana’s recidivism rate and improve the health and well-being of Montana communities.
- Please send your contribution to help those re-entering families and communities across Montana made payable to:

T.E.A.M Mentoring  
P.O. Box 30642  
Billings, MT 59107

## **Where is there more information about T.E.A.M Mentoring?**

- More information is available by calling **406-656-TEAM (8326)**, sending an e-mail to: [\*\*contactteam@teamentoring.org\*\*](mailto:contactteam@teamentoring.org)
- Or visit our website: [\*\*www.teamentoring.org\*\*](http://www.teamentoring.org)